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THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 67 Number 2 March 1985



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch, that gem of land adjacent to Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County, is justly famous as a breeding locale of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets who use the tops of giant Redwood trees to construct their massive nests. Visitors are able to walk up to a ridge overlooking the Redwood grove for unique views down on the nesting scene. Of course, many other bird species also breed here, sharing the space with an interesting and variable community of plants and animals.

Claerin Zumwalt - "Zumie" to many of us will be our guest speaker and give a slide presentation on the Ranch on **Thursday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m.** He was the first naturalist at the Ranch, is a delightful speaker and the topic is close to his heart.

Also on the program is Ruth Gravanis, Mission Creek Conservancy, who will make a brief presentation of that organization's proposal for the Mission Bay development, a 50 acre tidal marsh park.

The March Meeting will try a new location, hoping to attract a larger attendance for San Francisco meetings. It will be at the **Marina Branch S. F. Public Library, 1890 Chestnut, at Buchanan**, in Funston Playground. It can be reached by public transportation using the #30 Stockton or the #22 Filmore bus.

April Meeting

The April meeting, at the usual place in Berkeley, will present Cathy Pringle speaking on the crisis facing tropical rain forests. She will illustrate her talk with slides. Full details will be in the April GULL.

— PROGRAM COMMITTEE

THE RANCH OPENS

A visit to the Ranch is something you should schedule now. Our sanctuary will be open to the public Saturday, March 2. If you have visited there, I know you will want to return. If you have not seen the Ranch, do yourself a favor and go this year. Take a picnic lunch to enjoy in the ranch yard; I know you'll have a memorable time.

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1984 Christmas Bird Count reports for Oakland and San Francisco are in this issue at page 62.

Located in Marin County on Hwy. 1, it is about three miles north of Stinson Beach. It preserves the large heronry and the tract is laced with about ten miles of trails which offer from easy to challenging hiking. Come and see it.

— DAN MURPHY

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, March 2—San Pablo Reservoir. See February Gull.

Saturday, March 9—Tennessee Cove. This will be a two-mile walk to Tennessee Cove. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to look for land and shorebirds, including White-throated Swifts. From San Francisco, from Hwy. 101 take the Hwy. 1 exit toward the Mill Valley and Stinson Beach exit. In about one-quarter mile turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd. Meet at the end of the road at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 work). (✓)

Sunday, March 10—Owl Trip. Meet at 4:00 a.m. Call GGAS (843-2222) for details. Trip limited to first 20 persons who call. Please dress warmly and bring binoculars.

Wednesday, March 13—Mini-Trip to Mitchell Canyon. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ignacio Valley Rd. Go about 5 miles, turn right onto Clayton Rd. Go about a mile, make a right turn onto Mitchell Canyon Rd. and go to the parking lot at the end of the road. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds. Bring your lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (535-8032).

Saturday, March 16 — Hayward Shoreline. Meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance to Hayward Shoreline Park at

the foot of West Winton Ave. Exit Hwy. 17 at West Winton Ave. in Hayward and go west toward the Bay. Bring warm clothes and lunch. We will look for Snowy Plovers, Stilts, Avocets and many other shorebirds and ducks. We will walk about two miles on level ground. Leader: Chris Swarth (849-2053).

Sunday, March 17—San Francisco Bird Blitz. Participants in last year's blitz saw over 100 species within the City limits. This year's mad dash to build up the biggest "City Day List" possible will begin at 7 a.m. sharp at the parking lot at Middle Lake near 41st. Ave. and Lincoln Way. From there we will caravan to other sites including Sutro Baths, Lake Merced and Candlestick Point. Bring lunch and liquids. We will bird until dusk when we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant where for a minimal cost we can avoid going home to cook dinner. Please contact Shirley Kelly by March 10 if you plan to join us for dinner. Leader: Alan Hopkins.

Saturday, March 23—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the park entrance. Take I-680 south, turn off Calaveras Rd. (the freeway sign is marked Calaveras Rd., Dumbarton Bridge, Calif. 84), go south (left) and follow the signs to Sunol Park, about five miles. Bring lunch and liquids. Park regulations prohibit alcoholic beverages. We should see Golden Eagles, a variety of winter residents and early spring migrants. This trip is also good for wildflowers. Leader: Peter Allen (584-6233). (✓)

Sunday, March 24 — Coyote Hills Regional Park and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (SFBNWR). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the visitors' center. From Hwy. 17 exit at Jarvis

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Ave. and go north on Newark Blvd., or from the Alvarado West exit go to Newark Blvd. and turn south, follow the signs to the park. During the morning we will bird at Coyote Hills. After lunch we will caravan to the SFBNWR to see the exhibits at the visitors' center and look for birds in the adjoining area. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. In case of rain, please contact the leader. Leader: Paul Covel (530-2513). (✓).

Saturday/Sunday, March 30/31 — Honey Lake. Call for detailed directions. Limited to 20 participants. Lodging available in Susanville; primitive camping also available. Be sure to bring warm clothing. We should see Sage Grouse, Bald Eagles and other birds of the Eastern Sierra. Leader: Bob Hirt (383-5337). (✓)

Sunday, March 31—Beginners' Trip to Tilden Regional Park—Meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. From I-80 take University Ave. until it ends at Oxford and turn left. Take Oxford to Rose and turn right. Proceed one block and turn left at Spruce. Cross Grizzley Peak and take Wildcat Canyon Rd. Take the first left and follow signs to the Nature Center parking lot.

This field trip will concentrate on identifying birds of the chaparral, woodland and grassland areas of Tilden Park, Berkeley. We will see a variety of resident and breeding species and will listen for their sounds as an aid to identification. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Rain or serious threat of rain cancels trip. Leader: Robin Pulich (848-3594 evenings).

Saturday, April 6 — Bothe-Napa State Park. This is a particularly beautiful park in the spring, with migrating warblers and vireos, Winter Wrens, wildflowers and, if we are lucky, Pileated Woodpeckers. We will

walk about four to five miles and will bird mostly by ear. This trip is especially good for beginners. From the East Bay take I-80 north, turn off to Napa, following Hwy. 29 to St. Helena. The entrance to the park is on your left just past the Old Bale Mill north of St. Helena. From the West Bay, take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 37 near Novato, go east to the junction with Hwy. 121 (turn left at the junction) and follow 121 north and east to Napa where it joins Hwy. 29. Continue northwest to the park. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. Bring lunch and liquids. There is a day use fee. Rain cancels trip. Please carpool if possible. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Sunday, April 7—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. for the traditional Easter walk around the Chain of Lakes and the other lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl including Wood Ducks at this time of year. We also should see at least two varieties of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch at the Wave Restaurant. We will meet at 43rd. Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes). Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 work-phone). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

A NOTE FROM KATE PARTRIDGE

Not all of us have cars, and while offers of rides come for longer trips, even the short ones present problems

to some GGAS birders. If some of you could take a passenger or two, there are lots of people who would be able to bird. Without your offers, there is not much I can do to help those who need rides.

OBSERVATIONS: Through January 30

Cold, foggy, rainless weather typified January.

LATE FALL ON SE FARALLON

The December Farallon Island report from PRBO did not come in time for this month's column. Three species in late November are worth noting. Twenty Cattle Egrets arrived Nov. 23 and eight more dropped in Nov. 28. A Canvasback on Nov. 28 was new for the Island and brought the SE Farallon Island list to 364 species. Another Lapland Longspur appeared Nov. 20.

STILL PRESENT

Many birds discussed in the past two columns remained present into or through January. As most of these need no more discussion, I will merely list these in systematic order with the observers and *last reported* date for each.

Cattle Egrets remained numerous and widespread (mob). A high count in late December was 146 on the Santa Rosa Christmas Count (fide DE). Harlequin Duck at Moss Landing to Jan 27 (CA, et al.). Rock Sandpiper at Pebble Beach Jan. 2 (JMS). At Stockton Sewage Ponds Franklin's Gull and Little Gull to Jan. 29, Common Black-headed Gull to Jan. 24 (all mob). Glaucous Gull again at Princeton Harbor Jan. 12 (CC).

"Red-naped" Yellow bellied Sapsucker in Strybing Arboretum Jan. 14 (PMo). Greater Pewee in Union City Jan. 29 (mob, DSi). Oakland's Ash-throated Flycatcher was refound Jan.

5 (MBr) and Jan. 13 (MP).

Eurasian Skylark on Spaletta Ranch Plateau, Point Reyes all month (DS, JMa, et al.). Northern Shrike on Bay Farm Island Jan. 21 (AW, SFB, et al.) Yellow-throated Warbler at Olema Jan. 9 (RS). Sage Sparrow at Emeryville Marina Jan. 29 (mob, TC). Sharp-tailed Sparrow and two Swamp Sparrows at Pine Gulch Creek, all month (mob). Swamp Sparrow at Napa River Ecological Preserve Jan. 1 (MB). Lapland Longspur at Spaletta Ranch Plateau all month (EG, JMa, et al.).

Both male and female Great-tailed Grackles at San Francisco Aquatic Park Jan. 22 (DW). "Baltimore" Northern Oriole at Middle Lake Jan. 20 (LE). Red Crossbills continue to be widespread and numerous in most forested areas (mob), but some observers (JG, KFC) believe that numbers have been declining since late December. At Napa River Ecological Preserve, 25 Lawrence's Goldfinches Jan. 1 (MB).

LOON TO PUFFIN

The only Yellow-billed Loon was seen off Lover's Point in Pacific Grove Jan. 13 (SJ). On the waters off Monterey, 35 Black-vented Shearwaters were still present Jan. 26 (SJ). An immature male Harlequin Duck berthed at Pillar Point Harbor Jan. 5 (CA). Eight Oldsquaws were reported in six different areas (mob).

Several Bald Eagles were seen, including an adult that roosted daily in a lone tree south of Lawrence Livermore Lab (LI). An adult Broad-winged Hawk was seen in flight at Pacific Grove Dec. 28 (JP). A Sandhill Crane strode the San Andreas Fault just north of Five Brooks Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (fide JM).

Two Surfbirds at the Richmond Anchorage of the San Rafael Bridge Jan. 2 (BR) were unseasonally inside the

Bay. A Rock Sandpiper was found at a traditional site, the west jetty of Pillar Point Harbor Jan. 5-12 (CA; fide CC).

The biggest stir was created by an **adult Iceland Gull of the nominate (Greenland) race**, the first for western North America. First seen at long distance at Bodega Bay on Dec. 30 (KFC), it was re-found there and tentatively identified Jan. 11 (RS, LCB). Over the next several days the Iceland Gull was closely scrutinized by most of California's leading experts. Nearly all (DDeS, mob) agree with this identification, although a few birders of equal status remain skeptical. It was last seen Jan. 18 (RLeB). Additional Glaucous Gulls were identified at Frick Lake north of Livermore Jan. 7 (AE,) at Marshall on Tomales Bay Jan. 10, (RS), and about five miles southwest of Bodega Head Jan. 26 (KFC). The latter pelagic trip located an adult Tufted Puffin slightly farther offshore (KFC).

SWIFT TO SHRIKE

Two Vaux's Swifts were well seen at Calaveras Reservoir Jan. 19 (BS, et al.). Immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the eastern form (*varius*)** were detected in Pacific Grove Dec. 28 (JS) and at the Cheese Factory in Marin County Dec. 29-Jan. 27 (DW, et al.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the Rocky Mountain form (*nuchalis*) at Point Reyes Station was seen only Jan. 18 (RS). A Pileated Woodpecker in Big Basin State Park Jan. 5-6 (LF) was about at the southern limit of the species' range in the Bay Area.

A Tropical Kingbird at Carmel River Mouth in late December was gone by Dec. 28 (fide JS). Very unseasonal was the barn Swallow on Grizzly Island Jan. 9 (PA, fide MLR). Two flocks of Mountain Bluebirds totalling over 450 were along Little Panoche

Road Jan. 27 (CA). This is a high count, even in this favored location. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Putah Creek, Yolo Co., Jan. 12 (JR, et al.). A Northern Shrike was at Yolo Bypass near Woodland Jan. 13 (EG).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A large flowering eucalyptus on Lighthouse Ave. in Pacific Grove had three Tennessee Warblers on Dec. 28 (LCB, JP, BDP, JS) and four in January (fide DSe). However, the tree's best bird was the **Lucy's Warbler** Dec. 28 (LCB, JP, BDP, JS). Only one more Palm Warbler was reported, at Bodega Bay Dec. 30 (KFC). A Black-and-white Warbler was along Short St. in Pacific Grove Dec. 28 (LCB, JS).

Another Sage Sparrow chose a very strange wintering site. It was found at the mouth of San Lorenzo Creek Jan. 17 (HG). Conversely, the Swamp Sparrow at Shields Salt Marsh in Inverness Jan. 16-25 (RS, et al.) was expected. Skaggs Island hosted a Lapland Longspur on Jan. 27 (BDP, KFC, et al.).

A **Great-tailed Grackle** (sex not stated) was seen once at Pescadero Dec. 29 (PM, fide JMS and CR). A male **Great-tailed Grackle** visited Martinez Marina Jan. 10-11 (BR, et al.). It is about time the lonesome pioneers in San Francisco had some company in the Bay Area.

An adult male Cassin's Finch was on Sonoma Mountain Jan. 25 (KFC), near where a female-plumaged individual was found dead about two weeks earlier (fide RM). Eighteen Evening Grosbeaks were near Pescadero Dec. 29 (DS), and 40-50 were at Ryan's Beach, just east of Austin Creek, Sonoma Co., Dec. 30 (GM).

Erratum: The second sentence of my last column should read "The pelagic red crabs lingering from the El Nino phenomenon attracted enormous

feeding concentrations of gulls, Northern Fulmars and Arctic Loons to the Farallon Islands (PRBO) and Pacific Grove (mob)."

Observers: Chris Allen, Peter Allen, Stephen F. Bailey, Murray Berner (MB), Laurence C. Binford, Martha Breed (MBR), Kurt F. Campbell, Howard Cogswell, Clay Coler, Tom Condit, Becky Conzett, Nancy T. Conzett, David DeSante, Art Edwards, Lee Elias, Doug Ellis, Lee French, Doug Gomke, Ed Greaves, Helen Green, Peggy Gross, Jeff Groth, Len Intelisano, Marge Irwin, Dick Johnson, Shearwater Journeys, Rick LeBadour, many observers (mob), John Mariani (JMa) Richard Merris, Peter Metropulos (PM), Pat Morales (PMo), Joseph Morlan (JM), Gerald Mugele, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jay F. Penniman), Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Katy Pigford, Peter Pyle, Cliff Richer, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, David Sedgin (DS), Dennis Serdehely (DSe), Barbara Scharfenstein, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, John Stirling, Chris Swarth, Anna Wilcox, David Wimpfheimer, Jon Zablackis.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY,

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LETS STOP BEING JUVENILE OVER "JUVENAL"

Although the Editor's immediate predecessor answered complaints about my use of the term "juvenal",

the Editor continues to receive such complaints. Clearly, more GULL space must be devoted to this Great Issue.

The Classical Scholars insist that "juvenal" is either a misspelling of "juvenile" or the misuse of the name of a Roman poet, or both. These scholars overlook the fact that scientific and technological developments since the time of the Roman Empire have necessitated some linguistic evolution. In particular, a few new nouns were required. I will discuss only three.

The noun "type", as in mechanical printing, could not have existed in any language during Juvenal's life, because the technology hadn't been invented. It is futile to insist that it doesn't exist now, because you are reading this page, which was printed using type. The "definitive" OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY (OED) devotes over 200 lines to the meaning of the noun "type" and its variants. I will not quote the definition but will merely point out that the four letters that spell "type" are easier to use for conveying this meaning than even a small fraction of the OED's 200 lines. Definitions are very ponderous, if they must be used whenever a noun could suffice. This is the linguistic triumph of nouns.

Our language has continued to evolve since the OED. Science led to the computer. Classical Scholars may not like computers, but everyone admits that they are major factors in modern life. The OED does not recognize this new noun "computer", but the English-speaking world does. Think how difficult and inefficient it would be to communicate the precise and total meaning of "computer" if the noun were unavailable and one needed to describe a computer from scratch whenever it was mentioned.

Ornithology has also progressed since Roman times. Advancing science

requires precise, unambiguous nouns and adjectives. In THE AUDUBON SOCIETY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS (1980) John K. Terres defined "juvenal" as "Term applied in ornithology to the plumage of a young bird that comes immediately after, or succeeding, its natal down. In birds which have no natal down, the term also applies to the first plumage which succeeds the naked nestling stage, characteristic of some species. The juvenal plumage is the first in the life of a bird that is composed of true contour feathers (Van Tyne and Berger, 1959)." All modern systems of naming plumage recognize this plumage because it exists and demands a precise name. "Juvenile" cannot be substituted because it is well established as a word referring to youth or immaturity, in vague terms.

"Juvenal" may be used either as an adjective or a noun. It may describe either a plumage or an individual bird bearing juvenal plumage; both ornithological uses are unambiguous. Rather than put "an individual bird showing that first plumage of contour feathers that develops after the natal down" in my observations column, I consistently employ "a juvenal". Until now this practice had saved much tedium and GULL space. I would have preferred to write a short article on some other, more entertaining ornithological topic, but sometimes one is forced to get back to basics.

Undoubtedly I will use some other well-established and necessary ornithological terms that will offend a few Scholars in other disciplines. Perhaps the remainder of the GULL readership will forgive me if I refrain from writing another defensive of science and the Twentieth Century English language. Most of us find birding,

ornithology and conservation more interesting and productive.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY

CONSERVATION NOTES

Help!

With the start of the new legislative year YOU can help decide the future of our natural resources, our parks and wetlands, our forests and rivers. A letter sent to your legislator can have important impact. Your letter can be short and does not need to be typed. No special knowledge or information is needed. Simply state what you want your legislator to do. During the year we will be asking your help in the fight to save our natural world. Please help.

— ART FEINSTEIN

(Editor's Note: The Gull for April, 1984 included, at page 60, a good statement on letter-writing.)

Wildcat Creek Preservation and Flood Control

Advocates of preserving urban creeks recently completed a Modified Flood Control Plan for Wildcat Creek in North Richmond. Sponsored by the Urban Creeks Council, San Francisco Save the Bay Association and local citizens groups, the plan proposed a wooded floodplain with set-back levees instead of the concrete and earthen ditch proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Modified Plan would provide environmental and recreational benefits, as well as flood control. Strong public support is needed, however for the plan to receive the Corps' approval.

The Modified Plan, designed by Holton Associates and Philip Williams Associates, would preserve and restore riparian habitat, maintaining the wildlife and aesthetic values of one of the few remaining natural streams

entering the San Francisco Bay. It would also restore a valuable salt marsh at the mouth of the stream, home of Clapper Rails and Salt Marsh Harvest Mice, both endangered species. The hydrolic design would prevent sedimentation of the marsh by relocating the lower stream channel and providing sufficient flow velocities to carry more sediment into the Bay.

The Modified Plan would provide attractive open space and recreational facilities, including a streamside trail linked to the East Bay Regional Park District's regional bay shore trail. EBRPD provided funding for planning and design, as did the Vanguard Planning Foundation.

Letters of support are urgently needed and should be sent to: Mr. Lester Dixon, U.S. Corps of Engineers, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814, and to Nancy Fahden, Chairman, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, c/o Clerk of the Board, P.O. Box 911, Martinez, CA 94533 (or to other Supervisors). More information is available in the Golden Gate Audubon Office, or call Alan La Pointe (233-3244) or Ann Riley (548-1764) of the Urban Creeks Council.

Sinkyone Wilderness Status

Some of the last old growth redwood in private hands in California is obtainable for Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. At issue for ten years, Georgia Pacific, a multinational corporation, one of the largest timber companies on the North Coast, has offered to sell to the State Park System 7,000 acres of forest land on the "Lost Coast" of northern Mendocino Co., including some 700 acres of old growth redwood. The deadline is April 15 for the state to come up with about \$10 million for the purchase. If not, we can expect harvest plans to be filed for much if

not all of the old growth. And that will be that.

There is a problem. The Department of Parks and Recreation sets a low priority on increasing Sinkyone. Prospects are poor that Proposition Park Bond monies will be used for this purpose. Even partial funding might help, as there are other sources of public and private money that could make up the difference.

The final decision on bond monies will be made by the legislature after it gets the Park and Recreation Commission recommendation. Letters would be extremely important at this time:

Assemblyman Pat Johnson, Chairman, Sub-Committee on Resources and Transportation, Ways and Means Committee, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Robert Presley, Chairman Sub-Committee on Resources and Criminal Justice Senate Finance Committee, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814

Additionally, as individual legislators may be supporting park acquisitions within their districts, letters to your own legislators are important. Explain this last chance for the magnificent "Lost Coast" old growth redwood, and that perhaps other properties may not be faced with such deadlines.

Finally, letters supporting this acquisition should go to Gov. Deukmejian as his approval will be needed.

Tax Time Approaches

It's tax time again! Remember that you can use your California Tax Form 540 or 540a to contribute money directly to a program which aids threatened, rare and endangered wild species - plants, birds, fish and other animals. Your contribution cannot be deducted from your state income tax form, but it is deductible on the Federal Form 1040 the following year.

The money goes to a special account within the California Fish and Game Preservation Fund, to be used for projects which protect and enhance threatened, rare endangered species. Use the wildlife Check-off to help our wild life and add a pleasant touch to paying your tax.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

For three years we had a partially albino California Thrasher at our feeder and in the neighborhood. At first glance we thought it was a gull because its whiteness made it appear larger than normal. It was basically white with pale brown splotches in its wings. After some observation we noted it had more elaborate and much louder song than usual, probably trying to attract a mate.

Albinism is the abnormal lack of pigment, usually of genetic origin, which results in white or whitish external features. Birds such as egrets, herons, geese, swans and gulls, which are normally white are not albinos. Neither are birds which alternate plumage seasonally, such as ptarmigans.

Records of albinism have been noted in all orders of birds but it seems to occur more often among certain groups: crows, thrushes, swallows, and New World blackbirds. Brown pigment seems more likely to disappear and to be replaced by white than red or yellow pigments.

There are several degrees of albinism:

—Total albinism is the rarest form. There is a complete absence of dark pigment (melanin) from the eyes, skin and feathers. Because they are more obvious in their normal habitat, albino individuals are easy prey and have a short life span. They also

have weak eyesight and brittle wing and tail feathers which may reduce their flying ability.

—Incomplete albinism occurs when pigment is absent from either eyes, skin or feathers, but not from all 3.

—Imperfect albinism occurs when pigment is merely reduced but not totally absent in eyes, skin or feathers.

—Partial albinism is the most common form. There is complete or partial albinism within local parts of the body which may involve specific feathers. It is often symmetrical, each side showing the same pattern.

Because they are "different", albino birds are harrassed by their own kind and probably have trouble finding a mate.

Similar to albinism is leucism which is an abnormal paleness in the bird's plumage. It is a "dilution" of normal pigmentation and may be related to an abnormal diet in some cases. Therefore, despite appearing "washed out", leucistic birds still retain their characteristic pattern. Schizochroism is another word commonly used to describe these oddly colored birds.

A patch of white feathers on a normally colored bird may be caused by an injury, just as in other animals, or even by a sudden shock. Bird banders have noted that aging can cause birds to gradually become white, just as in humans.

Without examining a bird closely, i.e. hands-on, it is difficult to distinguish which form of albinism you may be observing. Just remember that when birding, you may have the opportunity of spotting such an unusual individual.

—MEG PAULETICH

APARTHEID

GGAS member Jeffery Black writes that he received the following from Les Line, editor of AUDUBON:

“You will be pleased to know that on Dec. 10, at a regular meeting of the Editorial Board, the subject of accepting advertising from the government of South Africa was brought up again. After considerable discussion, the Board adopted a motion stating that AUDUBON magazine would henceforth decline to accept advertisements from the government of South Africa because of its apartheid policy. A letter has gone to the South African government travel agency from Russ Peterson, National Audubon’s President, advising them of this decision”.

THE CHRISTMAS COUNT

Oakland

The annual Oakland Christmas Bird Count attracted 135 field birders and 15 feeder watchers on Dec. 16. That was a sunny, though unpleasantly cold day but the discomfort was forgotted in the end of the day dinner festivities. The final count was 107,923 individuals of 174 species. Prize sightings were of Northern Shrike, Black-throated Warbler and Sage Sparrow; also seen during the count period was an Ash-throated Flycatcher.

- KURT CAMPBELL
- NANCY CONZETT
- HELEN GREEN
- CHRIS SWARTH

San Francisco

The second, new series, San Francisco Christmas Bird Count was Dec. 27, an all too cold and foggy day. Two feeder watchers and 65 field birders tallied 40,780 birds of 166 species.

Rarities included Rough-legged Hawk, Yellow - bellied “Red - naped” Sapsucker, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager, Swamp

Sparrow and Northern “Baltimore” Oriole. Coverage of the count appeared in the S.F. Examiner and on TV Channel 7. The traditional count dinner at Sigmund Stern Grove ended the day.

Though with ten fewer birders than last year, coverage was improved, partially in the southern sector. There was no boat coverage, so about half of the circle was not covered. The Bay, the Ocean and Lake Merced would require a minimum of three boats. The industrial areas also require better coverage. So plan for participation next year; we need birders. The 1985 count will be announced in the October GULL.

— DAN MURPHY
— ALAN HOPKINS

In the table below the data compiled for the Oakland and San Francisco Christmas Bird Counts are reported in detail. Rare species are shown in bold face type. Asterisks indicate species seen in the count area but not on the count day.

Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.
Red-throated Loon	38	100
Arctic Loon	4	11
Common Loon	31	14
loon, sp.		100
Pied-billed Grebe	245	182
Horned Grebe	190	24
Red-necked Grebe	1	1
Eared Grebe	61	28
Western Grebe-2 phases	588	558
Western Grebe	181	921
W. Clark’s Grebe	29	9
Northern Fulmar	0	1
Amer. White Pelican	*	0
Brown Pelican (low)	2	0
Double-crested Cormorant	723	95
Brandt’s Cormorant	55	211
Pelagic Cormorant	9	24
cormorant sp.	0	78
Am. Bittern	0	1
Great Blue Heron	41	11
Great Egret	47	10

Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.	Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.
Snowy Egret	91	15	California Quail	115	84
Cattle Egret	8	17	Clapper Rail	13	0
Green-backed Heron	4	8	Virginia Rail	2	20
Black-crowned Night Heron	108	42	Sora	1	6
Tundra Swan	0	3	Common Moorhen	1	0
Canada Goose	1261	239	American Coot	3311	1567
Wood Duck	0	14	Black-bellied Plover	1761	508
Green-winged Teal	132	2	Snowy Plover		8
teal sp.	0	1	Semipalmated Plover	80	9
Mallard	1093	776	Killdeer	289	179
Northern Pintail	660	0	Am. Black Oystercatcher	0	5
Cinnamon Teal	8	0	American Avocet	506	101
Northern Shoveler	1079	29	Black-necked Stilt	107	12
Gadwall	85	18	Greater Yellowlegs	51	3
Eur. Wigeon	0	1	Willet	1121	409
American Wigeon	1141	398	Wandering Tattler	0	2
Canvasback	791	313	Spotted Sandpiper	30	9
Redhead	63	0	Whimbrel	16	25
Ring-necked Duck	21	36	Long-billed Curlew	84	75
Greater Scaup	3769	56	Marbled Godwit	717	89
Lesser Scaup	10,461	154	Ruddy Turnstone	12	16
Scaup sp.	7028	3910	Black Turnstone	81	63
Black Scoter	1	53	Surfbird	0	18
Surf Scoter	16,120	646	Red Knot	34	35
White-winged Scoter	532	153	Sanderling	628	465
scoter, sp.	1120	70	Western Sandpiper	1082	495
Common Goldeneye	331	33	Least Sandpiper	721	94
Barrow's Goldeneye	28	0	Dunlin	1732	915
Bufflehead	426	171	Short-billed Dowitcher	109	60
Ruddy Duck	1773	1509	Long-billed Dowitcher	508	7
Hooded Merganser	1	0	Dowitcher, sp.	853	265
Common Merganser (low)	2	0	Common Snipe	15	17
Red-breasted Merganser	43	3	Bonaparte's Gull	230	46
Turkey Vulture	161	3	Heermann's Gull	2	6
Osprey	1	0	Mew Gull	803	1988
Black-shouldered Kite	29	8	Ring-billed Gull	1656	439
Northern Harrier	16	6	California Gull	930	568
Sharp-shinned Hawk	24	10	Herring Gull	192	84
Cooper's Hawk	8	6	Thayer's Gull	4	16
Accipiter, sp.	16	0	Western Gull	1776	1333
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	9	Glaucous-winged Gull	786	515
Red-tailed Hawk	135	57	Glaucous-winged X Western	4	8
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	gull, sp.	0	2586
Buteo, sp.	1	0	Forster's Tern	110	10
Golden Eagle (adult)	2	1	Common Murre	0	6
American Kestrel	74	66	Band-tailed Pigeon	707	107
Merlin	1	0	Rock Dove	1039	1204
Ring-necked Pheasant	12	0	Mourning Dove	1587	849

Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.	Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.
Canary-winged Parakeet (exotic)	0	40	Hermit Thrush	71	74
Common Barn-Owl	2	0	American Robin	5950	1140
Western Screech-Owl	2	0	Varied Thrush	185	35
Great Horned Owl	30	40	Wrentit	313	68
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	0	Northern Mockingbird	48	11
Burrowing Owl	7	0	California Thrasher	24	0
Short-eared Owl	4	1	Water Pipit	115	76
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	0	Cedar Waxwing	362	190
White-throated Swift	2	0	Northern Shrike	1	0
Anna's Hummingbird	476	302	Loggerhead Shrike	21	14
Selasphorus, sp.	0	1	European Starling	5598	1069
Belted Kingfisher	15	16	Hutton's Vireo	50	21
Acorn Woodpecker	12	0	Tennessee Warbler	0	1
Red-breasted Sapsucker	18	0	Orange-crowned Warbler	7	13
Yellow-bellied "Red-naped" Sapsucker	0	1	Nashville Warbler	0	4
Nuttall's Woodpecker	0	1	Yellow Warbler	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	32	46	Yellow-rumped Warbler	558	1125
Hairy Woodpecker	10	1	Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler	108	44
Northern Flicker	311	0	Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler	390	216
N. "Yel.-sh." Flicker	0	1	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	0
N. "Red-sh." Flicker	0	91	Townsend's Warbler	50	74
Black Phoebe	115	85	Hermit Warbler	0	1
Say's Phoebe	28	10	Common Yellowthroat	11	24
Ash-throated Flycatcher	*		W. Tanager	0	1
Horned Lark	6	6	Rufous-sided Towhee	197	17
Tree Swallow	2	2	Brown Towhee	726	136
Steller's Jay	299	2	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	35	0
Scrub Jay	798	81	Lark Sparrow	22	0
American Crow	37	5	Sage Sparrow	1	0
Common Raven	6	28	Savannah Sparrow	79	13
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	808	187	Fox Sparrow	211	192
Plain Titmouse	108		Song Sparrow	426	171
Bushtit	2144	288	Lincoln's Sparrow	7	12
Red-breasted Nuthatch	246	34	Swamp Sparrow	0	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	0	White-throated Sparrow	3	1
Pygmy Nuthatch	0	232	Golden-crowned Sparrow	851	707
Brown Creeper	52	32	White-crowned Sparrow	1248	1078
Rock Wren	4		Dark-eyed Junco "Slate"	4	1
Bewick's Wren	173	21	Dark-eyed Junco "Oregon"	1454	683
House Wren	0	3	Red-winged Blackbird	533	233
Winter Wren	18	40	Tricolored Blackbird	34	230
Marsh Wren	9	51	Western Meadowlark	519	235
American Dipper	1	0	Brewer's Blackbird	875	2236
Golden-crowned Kinglet	356	204	Blackbird species	388	55
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	860	346	Brown-headed Cowbird	24	80
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	3	N. "Baltimore" Oriole	0	1
Western Bluebird	194	0	Purple Finch	111	35

Species Observed	Oakland	S.F.
House Finch	1375	1011
Red Crossbill (high)	71	153
Pine Siskin	1978	272
American Goldfinch	161	8
Lesser Goldfinch	393	31
House Sparrow	373	324
*count period		
Total individuals	107,923	40,780
Total species	174	166

NATURE SOUNDS

The Nature Sounds Society is sponsoring a presentation of "Song Learning and Song Dialects" given by Dr. Luis Baptista. Dr. Baptista is chairman of the Department of Birds and Mammals at the California Academy of Science and is noted for his research on song learning in White-crowned Sparrows. The talk will include a discussion of song learning in a number of species.

The meeting will be on Sunday, March 17 at 2:30 p.m. in the Goethe Room at the California Academy of Science, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. A business meeting at 1 p.m. will precede the talk. The meeting is open to anyone interested, amateur or professional. For information phone Paul Matzner, Oakland Museum, Natural Science Department, 273-3884.

SELENIUM AND AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE

March 23 at Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, there will be a symposium discussing the selenium problem and related issues. Federal and State officials, physicians and health specialists, as well as environmentalists will speak. Registration by mail is \$10 (\$15 if a box lunch is desired), and should be sent before March 15 to Prof.

Arnold Schultz, Conservation and Resource Studies, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

FARALLON SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday, March 16, at the California Academy of Sciences, the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary presents "The Farallones: Islands Sanctuary", a symposium on the natural and human history of the Farallon Islands.

The meeting, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 is sponsored by the Sanctuary PRBO the Academy, The Oceanic Society, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Registration is \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. To pre-register send a check for \$7 to PRBO, 4990 Shoreline Wy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970. For information phone 868-1221.

SPRING BIRDS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

This spring's introductory bird study course (Biol. 210) at Diablo Valley College includes all-day field trips on March 10 and 23, April 13, 20 and 28. Trips are planned to Bodega Bay, Monterey, the Central Valley, Mines Rd. and Pigeon Point. Bird identification, ecology and behavior are emphasized along with advice on taking useful field notes. The course is taught by Chris Swarth, DVC biology instructor and GGAS board member. For more information on the course and enrollment, call 685-1230.

PRBO BIRD SCHOOL

Rich Stallcup will critique the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE on Tuesday evenings, March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Marin Civic Center, San Rafael from 7-10 p.m. \$15 each evening, reservations advised. Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline HWy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970 or phone 868-1221.

SAN FRANCISCO BIRD WALKS

State Park Rangers of Candlestick Point Recreational Area will lead bird walks every Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. throughout March. Wear warm clothes, bring a bag lunch and binoculars, and enjoy one of the best birding areas on S.F. Bay. Take Candlestick exit off Hwy. 101 and meet the Rangers at the park entrance station on Hunters Point Expressway, just across from Candlestick stadium. For information phone 557-4127.

SPRING BIRD CLASS

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey returns to Albany Adult School this April to teach a course entitled "Spring Warblers, Vireos and Kinglets". The 16 species of these foliage gleaners found each spring in the Bay Area constitute the subject. Migration, habitats, visual identification and songs will be covered in two Wednesday evenings, April 10 and 17, 7-9:30 p.m. Call the school at 526-6811 for registration information.

SPRING DESERT TRIP

Steve Bailey's very popular annual spring desert trip will return to the spectacular birding of the Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree National Monument, and the north end of the Salton Sea. The trip is scheduled for the last weekend of April (26-29) so as to catch the peak of migration for both landbirds and shorebirds. Call Steve at 751-3313 for information or reservations.

ALASKA CRUISE FOR MONO LAKE

More than fifty people have reserved space for the Mono Lake Committee's cruise to Glacier Bay, Alaska, June 14-26. More space is being held on Sitmar's TSS FAIRSKY until April.

Fares range from \$2235 to \$2835 per person, double occupancy. A deposit of \$350 reserves the cabin of choice according to space available at time of deposit. Fares are less than regular tariff and about 12% of the total is tax deductible contribution to Mono Lake Fund of the National Audubon Society. For details send a 4"x9½" envelope, stamped and self-addressed to ALASKA, % M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708.

1985 GGAS EXTENDED TRIPS TEXAS SPRING

TEXAS SPRING MIGRATION Apr. 20-May 4, 1985; Leaders: TBA. Price \$1475. Filled, but listing possible in case of cancellation.

DEATH VALLEY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND May 24-27, 1985, Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$175. *

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA July 20-29, 1985; Leaders: Joe Morlan and Garth Alton. Price \$945.

SAN DIEGO PELAGIC Sept. 6-9, 1985; Leaders: Brad Goodhart and Chris Carpenter. Price \$240.

KENYA Oct. 9-23, 1985; Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$3075.

SOUTHERN MEXICO Nov. 16-Dec. 1, 1985; Leaders: Chris Carpenter and Lina Prairie. Price \$2095 *

*Price increased due to added costs.

LHS NATURAL HISTORY EXCURSIONS

The Lawrence Hall of Science offers a variety of weekend trips for adults and families. The courses are taught by LHS staff which includes experts in geology, entomology, marine zoology and ornithology. Destinations this spring include MacKerricher Ranch, Corral Hollow, and Mono Lake. Transportation is usually available and discounts are given to families. For more information please call 642-5134.

BIRD TREK IN HISTORIC BRITAIN

The UC Davis Extension is currently offering a birding trip to the United Kingdom, May 18 to June 2 at a cost of \$1560, not including air fare estimated at \$799. Full details may be obtained by phoning Dottie Paige at (916) 752-3098.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

On March 15, and for the 23rd year, Audubon Canyon Ranch will again throw open the gates of Picher Canyon to the general public. The staff again has been busily preparing for this moment. The trails have been cleared of winter debris; the picnic meadow has been groomed and freshened. The Bird Hide has been prepared for its avian visitors. The exhibit hall has been extended with new displays: "Feeding Adaptations on the Bolinas Lagoon", "Observations of the Pileated Woodpecker", "Special Events", such as the visit of 6000 pelicans to the Lagoon.

The new Bookstore offers special introductions, the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, nature books and games for children, the book WILDLIFE IN NATURE - THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S FIELD GUIDE. Come and see us.

At Volunteer Canyon, Ray Peterson announces a list of weekend classes: March 30-31 "The Great Salamander Hunt"

April 13-14 "Spring Wildflowers"

April 20-21 "Photo Setup" Close-up photography with Ian Tait and Ray Peterson).

April 27-28 "Water Bears and Tiger Beetles."

Golden Gate Audubon will provide Ranch hosts during March.

COOPER SOCIETY MEETING

At the next monthly meeting, on Monday, March 4, Dave DeSante will be speaking to us about his research on birds in the Sierra Nevada. Dave, a biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory, has been studying populations of birds at the Hall Nature area near Tioga Psas for many years.

The seminar will meet in Room 2503 Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley, at 8 p.m. and will be preceded at 7:45 p.m. by a brief business meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society. Everyone interested in birds is welcome to attend.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.